covering a population of 1250. As such there is no need to open another fair price shop in the area.

Issuance of New Ration Cards

1865. SHRI ANIL SHARMA: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have issued any guidelines to the State Governments with regard to issuing new ration cards to public;

(b) if so, the details in this regard;

(c) whether Government have received any complaints regarding harassments and maltreatment being meted out to the public by the employees working in the Food and Supplies Department, particularly in Delhi/New Delhi; and

(d) if so, the steps Government propose to take to kee a vigil on corrupt and errant employees of the Food and Supplies Department as well as to make the procedure simple?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI ASHOK PRADHAN):(a) and (b) Under the guidelines issued in respect of Antyodaya Anna Yojana, State Governments/UT Administrations have been asked to identify the poorest of the poor families out of the families living below the poverty line (BPL) and issue distinctive ration cards to them by actively involving the Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs) in rural areas and local bodies in the urban areas.

(c) and (d) All complaints regarding malfunctioning of PDS including complaints against employees of Food and Supply Department received in the Ministry are forwarded to State Government concerned for investigation and further action. As reported by the State Government of NCT Delhi, senior officers regularly visited the Circle Offices where forms were issued and

received and suitable action was taken with regard to complaints received. Action against two fair price shop owners found to be indulging in overcharging for declaration forms have been initiated.

In order to make PDS more efficient, accountable and effective, Government has issued PDS (Control) Order 2001, under Section 3 of the Essential Commodities Act, 1955. This order contains provisions relating to identification of beneficiaries in a time bound manner, periodical checking of ration cards, scale and issue price, distribution of foodgrains, issue of licenses for running fair price shops under Section 3 of EC Act, 1955. Any violation of the provisions of this order involves criminal liability under Section 3 of the Essential Commodities Act, 1955.

Non-recovery of revised marking price

1866. SHRI RAJU PARMAR:
SHRI RAMACHANDRA KHUNTIA:
SHRI BHAGATRAM MANHAR:

Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have seen the news-item titled "BIS officials indicted for favouring firms" appearing in the 'Hindustan Times', New Delhi dated 9th November, 2001;

(b) if so, what are the details of the officers of the Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) who have been indicted for their role in the scam relating to non-recovery of revised marking price on brand products using ISI marks;

(c) what is the estimated loss of revenue to Government on this account; and

(d) whether Government would announce a thorough probe into this scam and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI V. SREENIVASA PRASAD):(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) A detailed inquiry into the matter has revealed that the revised